



## Employment Facts:

- In 2008, over 15 percent of Americans 65-years and older were in the labor force. They constituted nearly 4 percent of the U.S. labor force.
- In Utah during 2008, roughly 16 percent of the 65-plus population were in the labor force. They constitute nearly 3 percent of the Utah labor force.
- In 2008, 3.9 percent of older Americans were unemployed compared to 4.2 percent of the total labor force.
- Labor force participation rates of older men have fallen dramatically since 1950 when they registered 46 percent. Today, only 21 percent of 65-plus men are in the labor force.
- After decreasing between the 1950s and the 1980s, labor force participation for older Americans plateaued during the first half of the 1990s. However, during the last decade, labor force participation has been gradually rising—especially among those between the ages of 65 and 69.
- As older workers continue to work, they are more likely to work part-time. About 10 percent of men aged 55-64 work part-time compared to almost half of employed men over 70.

# Just the Facts

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## Population

- In 2008, older Americans—those 65 years and older—represented 13 percent of the U.S. population. In Utah, this group comprised 9 percent of the population.
- In the U.S. there are 136 older women for every 100 older men. In Utah, the ratio measures 122 older women for every 100 older men.
- Older U.S. women make up almost 15 percent of the female population compared to Utah where older women make up 10 percent of the population.
- Men 65 and older make up 11 percent of the male population in the United States compared to Utah where older men make up 8 percent of the population.
- Since 1900, the share of Americans 65 years and older has tripled from 4.1 percent to 12.7 percent in 2008.
- Nationally, individuals between the ages of 55 and 64 comprise 11 percent of the population. In Utah, they show an 8-percent share of the population.
- Baby boomers will be responsible for the next population boom—in seniors. The older population will expand rapidly between 2010 and 2030 as the U.S. baby boom generation reaches and surpasses 65.
- The U.S. population 65 and over is expected to increase by 15 percent between 2000 and 2010 and by 36 percent between 2010 and 2020.
- By 2030, the older population is expected to be almost twice the number in that age group during 2005. By 2030, older Americans should account for about one-fifth of the U.S. population.
- In the U.S., almost 80 percent of 65-plus individuals lived in metropolitan areas in 2008.
- In 2008, over one-half of the 65-plus population lived in only nine states—California, Florida, New York, Texas, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, and New Jersey.
- States with the highest shares of older populations include Florida (17 percent), West Virginia (16 percent), Pennsylvania (15 percent), Maine (15 percent), Hawaii (15 percent), Iowa (15 percent), North Dakota (15 percent), South Dakota (14 percent), and Rhode Island (14 percent).
- Alaska shows the lowest share 65-plus population at 7 percent. Utah ranks second-lowest with 9 percent 65 and older.

- States with rapidly growing senior populations between 1996 and 2006 included Nevada (up 50 percent), Alaska (up 46 percent), Arizona (up 35 percent), Utah (up 29 percent), New Mexico (up 28 percent), Idaho (up 25 percent), and Georgia (up 25 percent).

## Demographic Characteristics

- In the U.S. during 2008, men 65 and older were much more likely to be married than comparably aged women (73 percent of men compared to 41 percent of women). Women are much more likely to be widowed.
- In Utah, more than 80 percent of 65-plus men were married compared to 51 percent of 65-plus women
- Roughly 42 percent of older U.S. women in 2008 were widows. There were over four times as many widows as widowers. In Utah, 36 percent of women were widowed.
- Divorced persons 65 and older represented about 10 percent of older persons in 2008—up from 5 percent in 1980. Similarly, 10 percent of Utah's older population was divorced in 2008.
- In 2008, 4.1 million U.S. households showed grandparents living with grandchildren. In 1.8 million of those households, grandparents were responsible for their grandchildren under the age of 18.
- In Utah during 2008, almost 32,000 households showed grandparents living with grandchildren. In 12,000 of those households, grandparents were responsible for their live-in grandchildren under the age of 18.
- Roughly 4 percent of the 65-plus population in 2006 lived in institutional settings such as nursing homes. However, 15 percent of persons 85 and older lived in institutional housing.
- Non-Hispanic whites accounted for nearly 80 percent of the 65-and-older population in the U.S. in 2008. Blacks, Asians, and Hispanics account for 8 percent, 3 percent, and 7 percent, respectively.
- During 2008, non-Hispanic whites accounted for nearly 93 percent of the 65-and-older population in Utah. Blacks, Asians, and Hispanics account for 0.3 percent, 1.3 percent, and 4 percent, respectively.
- Education among older Americans has increased dramatically. In 1970, only 28 percent of the 65-plus-population had completed high school compared to 76 percent in 2008. In 2008, one-fifth of this age group had a bachelor's degree.
- In Utah during 2008, 86 percent of older men and women had completed high school. In addition, 25 percent of the state's 65 and older population had at least a bachelor's degree.
- Average life expectancy at birth has risen from 47 years in 1900 to 77 in 2000.

